

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY: MISSILE DEFENSE IS EXPENSIVE LESSON IN FALSE SECURITY

Failed System Doesn't Work, Doesn't Protect Americans Against Imminent Terrorist Attacks

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Non-Proliferation, today released the following statement in response to press reports that President Bush will deploy a national missile defense system:

"The Bush Administration is rushing headlong to deploy a missile defense system that simply doesn't work. It failed a test last week, and it has failed many tests before. How can the Administration claim the proposed system will protect the United States if it doesn't even work?

"I will be introducing legislation in the next Congress to require realistic testing of any missile defense system to ensure that it works before it is deployed.

"The Administration claims that "we can hit a bullet with a bullet." The record of past missile defense system tests show that we can only hit a bullet if we know exactly when the bullet was fired, exactly where it was pointed, and if the bullet told us exactly where it was at all times.

"Finally, the Bush Administration has made the false claim that a missile defense system would protect the United States from terrorist groups armed with weapons of mass destruction. This system is designed to protect against missiles; it does nothing to protect against dirty bombs, anthrax, chemical agents released in a subway, or hijacked planes.

"The missile defense system that the Bush Administration plans to deploy will do nothing to increase the safety of the United States. Instead, it wastes taxpayer dollars and lulls us into a false sense of security. I urge the President to reconsider this decision."

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